

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 11 and 18-36 are pending in this application. Claims 11, 18, 19, and 21-36 are rejected in the Office action of December 23. Claim 20 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11 and 18-36 are hereby canceled. New claims 37-55 are hereby added. Support for these new claims can be found in the original claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 37-55 are patentable over the references cited as none of the references disclose, teach, or suggest a polymer for use in dental restoratives wherein the polymer has a backbone structure consisting essentially of a first monomer unit comprising acrylic acid (AA); a second monomer unit comprising maleic acid (MA); and a third monomer unit comprising a free-radical polymerizable vinyl amide. None of the references disclose, teach, or suggest a dental restorative comprising an AA-MA-vinyl amide terpolymer and an inorganic glass powder, wherein the dental restorative is formed when the polymer is blended with the inorganic glass powder. Furthermore, none of the disclose, teach, suggest a method for preparing a polymer to be used in dental restoratives comprising first polymerizing a first monomer unit comprising acrylic acid (AA), a second monomer unit comprising maleic acid (MA); and a third monomer unit comprising a free-radical polymerizable vinyl amide; and then recovering said polymer from the reaction mixture; wherein the polymer formed can be blended with an inorganic glass powder to make a dental restorative. As none of the references teach or suggest the amended claims, Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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